

FORM PTO-1190

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER:
ASAHI-3-PC-1

U.S. APPLICATION (If known) see 37 CFR 1.55
09/806382

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.:
PCT/JP99/05302

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:
28 September 1999 (28.09.99)

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED:
29 September 1998 (29.09.98)

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD OF CONTROLLING SECRETION OF GRANULES

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: Minoru SETO and Kouichirou FUKUDA

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information.

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
 4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
 5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau - *in Japanese language*).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau. (see attached copy of PCT/IB/308)
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
 6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
 8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
 10. ☐ A translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).
- Item 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:
11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
 12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
 13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
 - ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
 14. ☐ A substitute specification.
 15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
 16. ☒ Other items or information: International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210), International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409-in Japanese language), Application Data Sheet, Sequence Listing, Abstract

09/806382

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO

\$ 1,000.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO

\$ 860.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO

\$ 710.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)

\$ 690.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)

\$ 100.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$ 860.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$
Total claims	16 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	X \$80.00	\$
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS(S) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00	\$
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =			\$	860.00
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Applicant claims Small Entity Status under 37 CFR 1.27.			\$	
SUBTOTAL =			\$	860.00
Processing fee of \$130 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.49(f)).			\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =			\$	860.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) \$40.00 per property			\$	40.00
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =			\$	900.00
			Amount to be refunded:	
			charged:	

Total claims

16 - 20 =

0

X \$18.00

\$

Independent claims

2 - 3 =

0

X \$80.00

\$

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS(S) (if applicable)

+ \$260.00

\$

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$ 860.00

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Applicant claims Small Entity Status under 37 CFR 1.27.

\$

SUBTOTAL =

\$ 860.00

Processing fee of \$130 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.49(f)).

\$

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$ 860.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) \$40.00 per property

\$

40.00

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$ 900.00

Amount to be
refunded:

charged:

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 900 to cover the above fees is enclosed.b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. **25-0120** in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **25-0120**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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March 29, 2001

By

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JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 MAR 2001

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APPLICATION INFORMATION

Title Line One:: METHOD OF CONTROLLING SECRETION OF
Title Line Two:: GRANULES
Total Drawing Sheets:: THREE
Formal Drawings?: Yes
Application Type:: UTILITY
Docket Number:: ASAHI-3-PC-1

REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

Representative Customer Number:: 000466

09/806382

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CONTINUITY INFORMATION

This application is a::
>Application One::
Filing Date::

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371 OF
PCT/JP99/05302
SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION

Foreign Application One::
Filing Date::
Country::
Priority Claimed::

10/274574
SEPTEMBER 29, 1998
JAPAN
Yes

09/806382

09/806382

JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 MAR 2001

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Minoru SETO et al.

Box Non-fee Amendment

Serial No. (unknown)

GROUP

Filed herewith

Examiner

METHOD OF CONTROLLING SECRETION OF GRANULES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 as follows:

--3.(Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the active form of calgranulin is one or more of the following peptides:

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

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(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto, and

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.--

--6.(Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the cell line having granule secretion capability is neutrophils originating from a warm-blooded animal or neutrophil-like cultured cells.--

--7.(Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the active form of calgranulin is one or more of the following peptides:

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto, and

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.--

--9.(Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the method of detection is a quantitative determination method.--

--10.(Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the method of detection is a screening method.--

ADD NEW CLAIMS 12-16:

--12.(New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the active form of calgranulin is one or more of the following peptides:

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto, and

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.--

--13.(New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the cell line having granule secretion capability is neutrophils originating from a warm-blooded animal or neutrophil-like cultured cells.--

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.--

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto, and

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.--

--16.(New) The method according to claim 6, wherein the active form of calgranulin is one or more of the following peptides:

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto, and

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to

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the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.--

R E M A R K S

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 11 remain in this application. Claims 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 have been amended. Claims 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 have been amended to correct multiple dependencies.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Respectfully submitted,

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March 29, 2001

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106230 28690860

"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"

3. The method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the active form of calgranulin is one or more of the following peptides:

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto, and

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.

6. The method according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~, wherein the cell line having granule secretion capability is neutrophils originating from a warm-blooded animal or neutrophil-like cultured cells.

"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE (cont...)"

7. The method according to ~~any one of claims 4-6~~claim 4, wherein the active form of calgranulin is one or more of the following peptides:

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto, and

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.

9. The method according to ~~any one of claims 4-8~~claim 4, wherein the method of detection is a quantitative determination method.

10. The method according to ~~any one of claims 4-8~~claim 4, wherein the method of detection is a screening method.

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DESCRIPTION

METHOD OF CONTROLLING SECRETION OF GRANULES

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 The present invention relates to a method of controlling secretion of granules from cell lines having granule secretion capability, preferably secretion of granules from neutrophils and to a method of detecting substances which inhibit or activate the granule secretion reaction based on the method of controlling
10 secretion of granules.

BACKGROUND ART

Neutrophils play an important role in the defense of a living body. A major function of neutrophils is to migrate into
15 bacteria and microorganisms which invade into living bodies and eat the bacteria and microorganisms, thereby rendering a sterilizing effect. In one sterilization mechanism of neutrophils, sterilization is effected after fusion of phagosomes and granules by the action of bactericidal proteins
20 and proteases which are present in the granules. Although bactericidal proteins and proteases which are present in neutrophils are important sterilization substances, their excessive production and secretion are known to injure intima of bloodvessels (Fahey, T. J. et al., In Update Pulmonary Diseases
25 and Disorders (Fishman AP, ed) (1992) MacGraw-Hill, New York).

Intimal injury of blood vessels is deeply concerned with the occurrence of diseases such as adult respiratory distress

syndrome (ARDS) (Weiland, J. E. et al., Am. Rev. Respir. Dis. (1986) 133: 218-225), injury by reperfusion after ischemia (Cavanagh, S. P. et al. Cardiovasc. Surg. (1998) 6: 112-118), glomerular nephritis (Jennette, J. C. and Falk, R. J., Am. J. Kidney Dis. (1994) 24: 130-141), cystic fibrosis (Greenberger, P. A., J. A. M. A (1997) 278: 1924-1930), rheumatoid arthritis (Chang, D. J. et al. Semin. Arthritis Rheum. (1996) 25: 390-403), chronic bronchitis (Hoidal, J. R., Semin. Respir. Infect. (1994) 9: 8-12), spasm of blood vessel (Merhi, Y. et al. Arterioscler. Thromb. (1993) 13: 951-957), asthma (Borson, D. B. et al. Am. J. Physiol. (1991) 260: L212-L225), peripheral circulation disorder and angina pectoris (Merhi, Y. et al. Arterioscler. Thromb. (1993) 13: 951-957), hypertension (Dz au, V. J., Am. J. Med. (1984) 77: 31-36), arteriosclerosis (Belch, J. J., Curr. Opin. Lipidol. (1994) 5: 440-446), and the like. Therefore, the substances which inhibit secretion of neutrophil granules are thought to be useful as a therapeutic drug for treating diseases associated with secretion of neutrophil granules. Genes which control secretion of neutrophil granules are also thought to make genetic therapy of diseases associated with secretion of neutrophil granules possible.

However, the mechanism of secretion of neutrophil granules is not yet elucidated at present. An increase in the calcium concentration in neutrophils is known to be indispensable for secretion of granules. However, no molecules which are activated by an increase in the calcium concentration and induce granule secretion are known. Therefore, there have been no

specific neutrophil secretion inhibitors developed so far, nor any genetic therapy targeting the inhibition of neutrophil secretion inhibitors practiced.

The study for specifying intra neutrophil molecules which are activated by the increase in the calcium concentration and researching compounds and genes which inhibit such molecules are expected to contribute to the development of an effective preventive and/or treating agent, and curative method for diseases associated with secretion of neutrophil granules such as adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), injury by reperfusion after ischemia during acute myocardial infarction, glomerular nephritis, cystic fibrosis, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic bronchitis, cerebral vasospasm, asthma, peripheral circulation disorder, angina pectoris, hypertension, arteriosclerosis, and the like.

There are three types of calgranulins: calgranulin A (Burmeister, G., Immunology (1986) 171: 461-474) (named as S100A8, MRP8, p8, or L1 light chain), calgranulin B (Burmeister, G., Immunology (1986) 171: 461-474) (named as S100A9, MRP14, 14 or L1 heavy chain), and calgranulin C (Dell' Angelica, E. C., J. Biol. Chem. (1994) 269: 28929-28936) (named as S100A12 or p6).

Calgranulin A is a calcium-binding protein with a molecular weight of about 8 kD, calgranulin B is a calcium-binding protein with a molecular weight of about 14 kD, and calgranulin C is a calcium-binding protein with a molecular weight of about 10 kD and classified in the S100 protein.

Calgranulin A and calgranulin B were cloned by E. Lagasse

et al. and their whole amino acid sequences were reported in 1988 (E. Lagasse and R. G. Clerc, Molc. Cellular. Biol. (1988) No. 8, 2402-2410). Calgranulin A and calgranulin B are present specifically in neutrophils and monocytes and occupy about 5% of all proteins in neutrophils or monocytes.

As a finding suggesting intracellular physiological functions of calgranulins, the action of calgranulin A and calgranulin B inhibiting the activity of casein kinases I and II has been reported (Murao S. et al. J. Biol. Chem (1989) 264: 8356-8360).

However, physiological functions of casein kinases I and II in neutrophils and monocytes are still to be clarified. This inhibitory effect is not dependent on the calcium concentration. Therefore, the physiological function through the activity control of casein kinases I and II by calgranulin A and calgranulin B is not known at the present. As the findings suggesting extracellular physiological functions of calgranulins, the function of calgranulin A to increase migration of neutrophils and monocytes (Geczy, C. L., Biochim. Biophys. Acta (1996) 1313: 246-253) and the antibacterial activity of calgranulin A and calgranulin B (Murthy, A. R. K. et al., J. Immunol. (1993) 151: 6291-6301) have been reported.

However, the only calgranulin which exhibits neutrophil/monocyte migration activity is mouse calgranulin A. Thus, this is not a physiological activity common to other warm-blooded animals including humans. The antibacterial activity of calgranulin A and calgranulin B is due to their

capability of trapping divalent metals in a solution essential for the growth of bacteria. The activity would not be a physiological function specific to calgranulins.

Only little is known about physiological functions of calgranulin A and calgranulin B at the present time. The action of calgranulin A and calgranulin B to control secretion of neutrophil or monocyte granules has not been known at all. Calgranulin C was cloned by J. D. Gottsch et al. and its whole amino acid sequence was reported in 1997 (Gottsch, J. D. et al., Trans. Am. Ophthalmol. Soc. (1997) 95: 111-125). Calgranulin C is known to be present in granulocytes, but whether calgranulin C is present in other cells is not known. Neither, is its function known. Thus, the effect of calgranulin C on the control of the mechanism of neutrophil or monocyte granule secretion has not been known.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a method of controlling secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability, and a method of detecting substances which inhibit or activate the reaction of granule secretion based on the method of controlling secretion of granules.

As a result of extensive studies to achieve the above objective, the inventors of the present invention have found that secretion of granules can be controlled in the following manner. Specifically, if a treatment to increase the amount of active form of calgranulin is carried out on a cell line having

the capability of secreting granules, the cell line increases secretion of granules; and if a treatment to decrease the amount of active form of calgranulin is carried out, granule secretion from the cell line decreases. This finding has led to the completion of the present invention.

Specifically, the present invention provides a method of controlling granule secretion which comprises performing a treatment to increase or decrease an active form of calgranulin on a cell line having the capability of secreting granules.

The cell line having granule secretion capability used herein is not specifically limited inasmuch as the cell line can secrete granules. Neutrophils originating from warm-blooded animals or neutrophil-like cells can be given as preferable examples. Neutrophils originating from warm-blooded animals are also called neutrophilous leukocytes, neutrophilic leukocytes, heterophilic leukocytes, or polymorphonuclear leukocytes. Neutrophil-like cultured cells are cultured cells containing at least one type of granule included in neutrophils. HL60 cells that can be differentiated into granulocytes by a suitable treatment using retinoic acid, dimethylsulfoxide, or the like can be given as specific examples. Neutrophils can be separated from blood of the warm-blooded animals or cells which move into the abdominal cavity by stimulation such as intraperitoneal administration of casein (Biological Chemistry Experiment Lecture, second series, No. 8 Blood, Vol. 2, 679-685). Cultured leukemia cell strains which can be differentiated into granulocytes are used after induction into neutrophil-like cells

by differentiation using a suitable inductor of differentiation
(Biological Chemistry Experiment Lecture, second series, No.
8 Blood, Vol. 1, 117-123).

Calgranulins are present in warm-blooded animals, for
example. Calgranulin A (named as S100A8, MRP8, p8, or L1 light
chain) and calgranulin B (named as S100A9, MRP14, p14 or L1 heavy
chain) are known. Human-type calgranulin A and human-type
calgranulin B were cloned and their whole amino acid sequences
have been reported (E. Lagasse and R. G. Clerc, Molc. Cellular.
Biol. (1988) No. 8, 2402-2410). Mouse-type calgranulin A and
mouse-type calgranulin B were cloned and their whole amino acid
sequences have been reported (E. Lagasse and I. L. Weissman,
Blood (1992) 79: 1907-1915). Mouse-type calgranulin A and
mouse-type calgranulin B show a high homology of amino acid
sequence to those of humans. Specifically, their homology to
the human-type calgranulin A and human-type calgranulin B,
respectively, is about 60%. Calgranulin A and calgranulin B which
are present in various warm-blooded animals are thought to
exhibit comparatively small difference in the amino acid sequence
among animals. Therefore, in the calgranulin of the present
invention the amino acid sequences exhibiting about 60% or more
homology to the amino acid sequence of human calgranulin A or
B are included in the preferable peptides as long as the amino
acid sequences possess the following preferable activity.

In the present invention, a calgranulin exhibiting
activity is specially referred to as an active form of calgranulin.
Specifically, such activity may be any activity based on

calgranulin A or calgranulin B, and this can be easily confirmed by the following measuring method of calgranulin activity.

Specifically, the calgranulin activity can be easily confirmed and determined by using the method shown in Example 1 or 2. The permeabilized neutrophil suspension prepared by the method of Example 1 is added to a 96-well immunoplate and incubated at 30-40°C for 5-30 minutes. After simultaneous or successive addition of a water-soluble calcium compound and a substance having calgranulin activity to the well, the calgranulin activity is determined by measuring the amount of substances secreted in the supernatant, such as elastase or lactoferrin, according to the method of Example 1 or 2.

In a normal case, an active form of calgranulin is produced by binding calgranulin and calcium.

Homologues or mixtures of calgranulins are also included in the calgranulin of the present invention.

Homologues of calgranulin A or calgranulin B are mutants, fragments, and derivatives of the calgranulins possessing calgranulin activity. The mutants indicate calgranulins exhibiting the same activity as the calgranulin A or calgranulin B, but formed by a natural or artificial gene manipulation technique on a DNA level, for example, by the site specific mutagenesis, in which a part of amino acids is replaced, deleted, or added (PAS, 75, pp 4268-4270 (1978), Necl. Acid. Res., 6, pp 2973-2985 (1979), Genetic Engineering Principle and Methods, Vol. 3, pp 1-32 (1981), etc.).

The fragments mean fragments of calgranulin A or

calgranulin B which contains continuous amino acids.

The derivatives mean calgranulin A or calgranulin B in which the functional group such as an amino group, hydroxyl group, mercapto group, or carboxyl group is modified by, for example, glycosylation, acylation, amidation, or esterification. The derivatives further include dimers of calgranulin A or calgranulin B, their mutants, or fragments in which the mercapto group of cysteine residue is oxidized to the disulfide form providing intermolecular S-S linkages, as well as mixed dimers produced from calgranulin A, its mutant, or fragment and calgranulin B, its mutant, or fragment which are bound through an oxidized mercapto group of cysteine residue, all exhibiting the calgranulin activity.

There are no limitations to the mixtures inasmuch as the mixture is a mixture of calgranulin A or its homologue and calgranulin B or its homologue at an arbitrary ratio and exhibits the calgranulin activity.

The amino acid sequence of calgranulin A is shown by Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table (Nature (1987) 330 (5) 80-82), and the amino acid sequence of calgranulin B is shown by Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table (the same source). Therefore, calgranulins including at least one of the following peptides can be given as preferable active form of calgranulins of the present invention.

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto.

(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto.

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.

The following methods can be given as examples of the method of increasing an active form of calgranulin in cell lines having granule secretion capability.

a) A method of converting cell membranes of cell lines having granule secretion capability, preferably neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells into permeabilized cell membranes, and simultaneously or successively adding a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound.

b) A method of simultaneously or successively adding a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound to a cell line having granule secretion capability by microinjection using a very fine injection needle.

c) A method of mixing a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound, enclosing the mixture in a liposome, and causing the mixture to contact with a cell line having granule secretion capability, thereby fusing cell membranes.

d) A method of introducing a calgranulin gene into a cell

line having granule secretion capability to cause calgranulin to over expression and adding a water-soluble calcium compound to the expressed calgranulin.

To change the membrane of a cell line having granule secretion capability into a permeabilized cell membrane, cells having granule secretion capability are first separated from blood, for example and prepared. Any known method of separation and preparation may be used for preparing such cells. The cells having granule secretion capability may be suspended cells or may occasionally be adhered cells. Suspended cells are more preferable in the present invention in view of ease of separation from blood. Cells having granule secretion capability separated from blood are suspended and stored in a physiological saline solution or a phosphate buffered saline.

When used, the suspension is re-suspended in a buffer solution containing potassium chloride and sodium chloride such as a HEPES buffer solution or Tris buffer solution, for example, incubated, and processed to convert the membranes into permeabilized cell membranes. A buffer solution containing 50-200 mM potassium chloride and 5-30 mM sodium chloride is preferable as the buffer solution containing potassium chloride and sodium chloride used in the present invention. Specific examples are a 10-50 mM HEPES (pH 6.5-7.5) buffer solution or a 10-50 mM Tris (pH 6.5-7.5) buffer solution. The mixture is incubated at 4-40°C for 10-60 minutes.

The cells having granule secretion capability separated from blood are incubated in a RPMI 1640 medium, MEM medium, or

the like which contains fetal bovine serum. Suspended cells are re-suspended in the buffer solution containing potassium chloride and sodium chloride. In the case of adhered cells, supernatant of the culture liquid is discarded and cells are re-suspended in the buffer solution containing potassium chloride and sodium chloride. The suspension is incubated in the same manner as described above and processed to make the membranes permeabilized cell membranes.

The cells having granule secretion capability obtained in this manner are subjected to a treatment to make the membranes permeabilized cell membranes. One example of this treatment comprises treating the cells with an agent having a function of making holes through the membranes by acting on part of the cell membranes such as, for example, a surfactant, bacterial toxin, or glycerol. As examples of surfactants, digitonin, saponin, octylphenol-polyethyleneglycolether (Triton X-100), 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylammoniol]-1-propane-sulfonate (CHAPS), polyoxyethylene (20) cetylolether (Brij 58), and the like can be given. As examples of bacterial toxins, α -toxin, streptolysin-O, and the like can be given. An amount of 0.01 μ M to 1000 mM of the above agent is added to 1×10^7 cells/ml, and the mixture is incubated at 4-40°C for 5-120 minutes.

Treatment of cells using short electric pulses (an electroporation method) is another preferable method of forming permeabilized cell membranes. Specifically, an amount of 1×10^7 cells/ml of cell line is treated with 1-10 KV electric pulses at 4-40°C for 1-30 minutes.

A method of using laser beams, a method of using a hypotonic solution, and the like are also preferable methods of forming permeabilized cell membranes.

The water-soluble calcium compound used in the present invention is not specifically limited inasmuch as the compound produces calcium ions when it contacts with water. Powders or aqueous solutions of calcium acetate, calcium carbonate, and calcium chloride are given as examples. A particularly preferable water-soluble calcium compound is a compound which produces calcium ions at a concentration of 100 mM or more when the compound contacts with water. When an aqueous solution is used, its calcium concentration is preferably 100 mM or more.

Simultaneous addition of a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound to permeabilized cell membranes in the present invention means a procedure of previously mixing the calgranulin and water-soluble calcium compound, incubating the mixture to make the calgranulin active form of, and adding the active form of calgranulin. Successive addition of a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound means a procedure of separately adding the calgranulin and water-soluble calcium compound irrespective of the order of addition.

The amount of calgranulin added is usually 0.01 μM or more, and preferably 0.1-5 μM . Although there is no specific upper limit, an amount less than 10 μM is preferable. In the same manner, the amount of water-soluble calcium compound added is usually 0.01 μM or more, and preferably 0.1-5 μM . Although there is no specific upper limit, the amount less than 10 μM

is preferable.

Incubation is carried out usually at 4-40°C. Incubation is carried out usually for 5-30 minutes.

The other methods of increasing an active form of calgranulin in cell lines having granule secretion capability will now be described.

Cells having granule secretion capability are first separated from blood, and suspended and stored in a physiological saline or a phosphate buffered saline as mentioned above. Alternatively, the cells are cultured in a RPMI medium, MEM medium, or the like containing fetal bovine serum. In the case of suspended cells, the cells are suspended in a culture medium. In the case of adhered cells, the cells are need for microinjection, introduction of liposomes, genes, and the like.

Although microinjection is carried out according to a conventional method, the use of a very fine injection needle with a diameter of usually 1 μm or less, preferably 0.1-0.8 μm , is desirable. Such an injection needle can be prepared by extending a molten glass capillary. Specifically, an injection needle is set in a manipulator controllable within an accuracy of 1 μm , and a calgranulin and a soluble calcium compound are simultaneously microinjected into the cells. Alternatively, the calgranulin is microinjected first and, after a while, for example after 1-60 minutes, preferably after 3-10 minutes, the water-soluble calcium compound is microinjected. It is possible to microinject calgranulin after microinjection of the water-soluble calcium compound. In this instance, the

concentrations of the calgranulin and water-soluble calcium compound may be approximately the same as the above described concentrations.

In the method of increasing an active form of calgranulin in a cell line having granule secretion capability by membrane fusing using a liposome, the calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound are mixed and enclosed in the liposome, and caused to contact with the cells, thereby fusing cell membranes. First, a phospholipid solution containing cholesterol, for example, a mixture of egg yolk phosphatidylcholin, dimyristoyl phosphatidic acid, and cholesterol at a molar ratio of 4:1:5 is prepared. A water-soluble calcium compound and calgranulin are added to the mixture, and the resulting mixture is stirred and filtered through a membrane filter, for example, a membrane filter made of Teflon, thereby obtaining an emulsion. The emulsion is subjected to a rotary evaporator to evaporate an organic solvent, and calgranulin which is not enclosed in the liposome is removed. As the method of removal, a 12% sucrose density-gradient centrifugation is preferably used. In this manner, calgranulin is mixed with a water-soluble calcium compound and converted into an active form of calgranulin, and a liposome in which the active form of calgranulin is enclosed prepared. Next, the liposome with an active form of calgranulin is enclosed therein is caused to contact with the above-mentioned cells having granule secretion capability. For example, the liposome is added to $1 \times 10^5 \sim 1 \times 10^7$ cells in a concentration of 0.01-100 μM , and preferably 0.1-10 μM , and the mixture is

incubated. Incubation is carried out at 4-40°C for 1-30 minutes, for example. In this manner, membranes are fused and an active form of calgranulin can be increased in the cell lines having granule secretion capability.

5 As a method of causing calgranulin to over-expression, a method of recombining a gene encoding calgranulin in a known plasmid vector or virus vector, and introducing the recombinant into the cells can be given. The base sequence shown as Sequence ID No. 1 or No. 2 in the sequence table, for example, can be
10 used as a gene encoding calgranulin. The recombinant vector can be introduced into the cells by the calcium phosphate method, the DEAE dextran method, lipofectin method, electric pulse method, or the like. The above-described various methods may be preferably used for introducing a calgranulin gene in a cell
15 line and causing the calgranulin to over-expression. The cells are converted to cells having the above-mentioned permeabilized cell membrane and a water-soluble calcium compound is preferably introduced in the cell line. Specifically, a calgranulin gene is introduced into cells by incubating a plasmid vector or virus
20 vector in which the calgranulin gene has been incorporated in the amount of the 1-200 µg per 0.5×10^7 to 3×10^7 cells at 4-40°C for 5-120 minutes together with 1-100 µg of calcium phosphate, 0.1-10 mg of DEAE dextran, or 1-100 µg of lipofectin, or by treating the plasmid vector or virus vector in which the calgranulin gene
25 has been incorporated in the amount of the 1-200 µg per 0.5×10^7 to 3×10^7 cells using a short electric pulse at 4-40°C for 1-30 minutes. The above-mentioned various methods may be used for

introducing the water-soluble calcium compound.

The following methods can be given as examples of the method of decreasing active form of calgranulin of cell lines having granule secretion capability.

5 a) A method of converting a cell line having granule secretion capability into cells with permeabilized cell membranes and adding a calgranulin antibody.

10 b) A method of adding calgranulin antibody to a cell line having granule secretion capability by microinjection using a very fine injection needle.

 c) A method of enclosing a calgranulin antibody in a liposome and causing the liposome to act on a cell line having granule secretion capability, thereby fusing cell membranes.

15 d) A method of introducing an anti-sense gene for a calgranulin gene into a cell line having granule secretion capability, thereby knocking out calgranulin.

20 A monoclonal antibody to calgranulin can be prepared by the method described in Am. J. Physiol. 274, C1563-C1572 (1988). For example, 10-100 μ g of calgranulin is mixed with a complete Freund's adjuvant and intraperitoneally administered in a mouse. After administration several times, once every two weeks, the spleen is excised to prepare spleen cells. The spleen cells are fused with myeloma cells using polyethylene glycol and cultured in an HAT medium containing 15% fetal bovine serum, to select
25 only fused cells. At the time when colonies are identified by the naked eye, calgranulin antibody-producing cells are confirmed by the ELISA method in which the calgranulin is combined

with a 96 well immuno plate, and cloning is carried out by the limiting dilution method. The cells obtained are cultured and the monoclonal antibody to calgranulin produced in the supernatant is collected.

5 The monoclonal antibody to calgranulin is also available from BMA Company.

To obtain a polyclonal antibody to calgranulin, 10-100 μg of calgranulin is mixed with a complete Freund's adjuvant and subcutaneously administered to a rabbit. After
10 administration several times, once every two weeks, blood is collected to obtain a polyclonal antibody as antiserum.

The calgranulin antibody is added to the cells having granule secretion capability having permeabilized cell membranes prepared by the above-mentioned method in an amount
15 of 1-100 μg per 1×10^5 to 1×10^7 cells, for example, and the mixture is incubated at 4-40°C for 1-30 minutes, whereby the calgranulin antibody is introduced into the cells.

Microinjection is another method of introducing calgranulin antibody into cell lines, wherein 0.01-10 μg of the
20 calgranulin antibody is introduced into the cells by microinjection using an injection needle set in a manipulator under pressure by an injector.

Still another method comprises enclosing 1-100 μg of the calgranulin antibody into the above-mentioned liposome, adding
25 the liposome to the cells at a concentration of 0.01-100 μM , preferably 0.1-10 μM , per 1×10^5 to 1×10^7 cells, and incubating the mixture at 4-40°C for 1-30 minutes.

5 A calgranulin anti-sense gene can be obtained by inserting
a gene having a base sequence complementary to the base sequence
shown by Sequence ID No. 1 or No. 2, for example. In the present
invention, a plasmid vector or virus vector is prepared by
inserting 1-200 μg of this calgranulin anti-sense gene per 0.5×10^7
to 3×10^7 cells. The resulting vector is incubated at 4-40°C for
5-120 minutes with the addition of 1-100 μg of calcium phosphate,
0.1-10 mg of DEAE dextran, or 1-100 μg of lipofectin.
Alternatively, a plasmid vector or virus vector with 1-200 μg
10 of the calgranulin anti-sense gene inserted per 0.5×10^7 to 3×10^7
cells is added and treated by a short electric pulse at 0.05-0.5
kV at a temperature of 4-40°C for 1-30 minutes.

15 In this manner, an anti-sense gene for a calgranulin gene
is introduced into a cell line having granule secretion
capability and knocked out.

A treatment of increasing or decreasing an active form
of calgranulin in cell lines having granule secretion capability
can be carried out according to the above-described procedure.
As a result, granule secretion of a cell line can be controlled
20 by increasing or decreasing granule secretion of the cell line.

Granule secretion of neutrophils is known to injure intima
of blood vessels as mentioned above. Injury of blood vessel intima
is known to be deeply associated with diseases such as adult
respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), injury by reperfusion
25 after ischemia during acute myocardial infarction, glomerular
nephritis, cystic fibrosis, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic
bronchitis, cerebral vasospasm, asthma, peripheral circulation

disorder, angina pectoris, hypertension, arteriosclerosis, and the like. Therefore, a curative agent, improving agent, or improving method may be provided when granule secretion is decreased in the above method for controlling secretion of granule. A gene therapy for diseases and phenomenon associated with secretion of neutrophil granules, such as adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), injury by reperfusion after ischemia during acute myocardial infarction, glomerular nephritis, cystic fibrosis, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic bronchitis, cerebral spasm, asthma, peripheral circulation disorder, angina pectoris, hypertension, arteriosclerosis, and the like, may be possible if an anti-sense gene for a calgranulin gene is recombined in virus vector introducing the resultant recombinant gene into neutrophils removed from a patient and returning the cells to the patient. Specifically, the above-described granule secretion control method includes a curative method and improving method of the above diseases.

The present invention also provides a method of detecting a substance which inhibits or activates the granule secretion reaction.

Specifically, the present invention provides a method of detecting a substance which inhibits or activates the granule secretion reaction comprising the following steps:

- A) A step of increasing an active form of calgranulin in cell lines having granule secretion capability;
- B) A step of causing a sample which may contain a substance inhibiting or activating the granule secretion reaction

(hereinafter simply referred to as "sample") to contact with the cell lines having granule secretion capability, and incubating the mixture; and

5 C) A step of detecting the subject substance secreted from the cell line.

The step B) for causing the sample to contact with the cell lines having granule secretion capability may be carried out before, after, or during the step A) for increasing an active form of calgranulin.

10 The method of detecting a substance which inhibits or activates the granule secretion reaction of the present invention includes a method of quantitative determination of the substance or a method of screening the substance.

15 The same procedure as described above can be employed in the method of conducting the step A) to increase active form of calgranulin of cell lines having granule secretion capability. Specifically, the following methods can be given:

20 a) A method of converting cell membranes of cell lines having granule secretion capability, preferably neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells, into permeabilized cell membranes, and simultaneously or successively adding a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound.

25 b) A method of simultaneously or successively adding a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound to a cell line having granule secretion capability by microinjection using a very fine injection needle.

c) A method of mixing a calgranulin and a water-soluble

calcium compound, enclosing the mixture in a liposome, and causing the mixture to come into contact with a cell line having granule secretion capability to fuse cell membranes.

d) A method of introducing a calgranulin gene into a cell
5 line having granule secretion capability to cause the calgranulin to be over-expressed and adding a water-soluble calcium compound to the expressed calgranulin.

In the step B) of causing a sample which may contain a substance inhibiting or activating the granule secretion
10 reaction to contact with the cell lines having granule secretion capability, and incubating the mixture, biological components, naturally occurring substances, compounds, and the like can be given as examples of the sample. This procedure of causing the sample to contact with the cell lines having granule secretion
15 capability is carried out before, after, or during the step A) of increasing an active form of calgranulin. As the cell lines having granule secretion capability, the said cell line having granule secretion capability itself, a cell line in which the calgranulin has been increased, a cell line in which the active
20 form of calgranulin has been increased, and the like can be used. The former two cell lines increase an active form of calgranulin by the above-mentioned treatment for increasing the active form of calgranulin.

In a preferable method of increasing an active form of
25 calgranulin, the calgranulin is first increased in the cell line having granule secretion capability and then a water-soluble calcium compound is increased in this cell line, or an active

form of calgranulin produced by reacting a calgranulin with a water-soluble calcium compound is increased in the cell line having granule secretion capability. This sample is caused to contact with the cell line before, after, or during the procedure of increasing the calgranulin or active form of calgranulin. The procedure of contacting the sample with the cell line is preferable as a method of screening pharmaceutical agents without a treatment in which the sample is penetrated through cell membranes.

A specific example is as follows. In the case where permeabilized cell membranes are used, an appropriate concentration of the sample which may contain a substance inhibiting or activating the granule secretion reaction is added to the cell suspension and the mixture is incubated. In this instance, 1-100 μM of the sample is added to a suspension of neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells having permeabilized cell membranes, and the mixture is incubated at 4-40°C for 1-30 minutes. Next, a calgranulin is added, and after a while, a water-soluble calcium compound is added. For example, the water-soluble calcium compound is added 1-60 minutes, and preferably 3-10 minutes, after the addition of calgranulin. In this instance, the calgranulin and water-soluble calcium compound are added in the amount of about 0.01-10 μM each and preferably 0.1-3 μM each. The order of the addition may be either first calgranulin and then water-soluble calcium compound, or first the water-soluble calcium compound and then the calgranulin. The most preferable method is first preparing an active form

of calgranulin by the reaction of a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound, then adding the active form of calgranulin into the above mentioned cell line. The sample may be added to the cell line not only before the addition of the calgranulin, but also simultaneously or after the addition of the calgranulin or active form of calgranulin. The reaction for granule secretion is initiated in this manner.

In the case where cells having granule secretion capability, for example, neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells are injected by microinjection, an appropriate concentration, for example, 1-100 μM , of the sample which may contain a substance inhibiting or activating the granule secretion reaction is added to the neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells, and the mixture is incubated at 4-40°C for 1-30 minutes. A calgranulin is microinjected at an appropriate concentration, for example, at 0.01-10 μM , and preferably 0.1-3 μM , and a water-soluble calcium compound is microinjected simultaneously at a concentration, for example, at 0.01-10 μM , and preferably 0.1-3 μM . Alternatively, the water-soluble calcium compound is microinjected after microinjection of calgranulin, for example after 1-60 minutes, preferably after 3-10 minutes, whereby the granule secretion reaction is initiated.

In the case where neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells are reacted with a liposome, a sample which may contain a substance inhibiting or activating the granule secretion reaction is added to the suspension of the neutrophils or

neutrophil-like cultured cells at an appropriate concentration, 1-100 μM , for example, and the mixture is incubated for 1-30 minutes. A calgranulin is previously mixed with a water-soluble calcium compound at a concentration of, for example, 0.01-10 μM , and preferably 0.1-3 μM , and the mixture is incubated, for example, at 4-40°C for 1-30 minutes, then introduced into a liposome at a concentration of 0.01-10 μM , and preferably 0.1-3 μM . The liposome is added into a suspension of neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells to initiate the granule secretion reaction.

In the case of using cells in which the calgranulin is over-expressed, for example neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells into which a calgranulin gene has been introduced, an appropriate concentration of sample which may contain a substance inhibiting or activating the granule secretion reaction is incubated for 1-30 minutes, for example. A water-soluble calcium compound is added at a concentration of, for example, 0.01-10 μM , and preferably 0.1-3 μM , and the mixture is incubated for 1-30 minutes, for example. Then calcium ionophore, for example, A23187 or ionomycin, is added at a concentration of 0.01-10 μM , and preferably 0.1-3 μM to initiate the granule secretion reaction.

Next, the step C) for detecting the subject substance secreted from the cell line is carried out.

Azurophil granules (primary granules), specific granules (secondary granules), and storage granules (tertiary granules) are given as granules contained in neutrophils. Acidic β

5 -glycerophosphatase, β -glucuronidase, N-acetyl- β -
-glucurosaminidase, α -mannosidase, arylsulfatase, β -
-galactosidase, α -fucosidase, cathepsin B, cathepsin D,
cathepsin G, elastase, proteinase 3, myeloperoxidase, lysozyme,
and the like are secreted from Azurophil granules. Collagenase,
lysozyme, lactoferrin, vitamin B₁₂-binding protein, cytochrome
b, and the like are secreted from the special granules.
Gelatinase, N-acetyl- β -glucurosaminidase, cathepsin B,
cathepsin D, β -glucuronidase, β -glycerophosphatase, α -
10 -mannosidase, and the like are secreted from storage granules.
These substances can be selected as a subject substance to be
detected. Each of the subject substances can be quantitatively
analyzed by means of an appropriate method.

15 For example, the quantity of myeloperoxidase secreted
from Azurophil granules can be determined from the rate of
increase in the absorbance at 650 nm by a spectrophotometer using
3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine and a hydrogen peroxide as
substrates. Lactoferrin secreted from specific granules can
be determined by ELISA (enzyme-linked immunoassay, an assay kit
20 manufactured by Oxis Co.) using an antilactoferrin antibody.
The quantity of N-acetyl- β -glucurosaminidase, β -
-glucuronidase, and α -mannosidase secreted from storage
granules can be determined by measuring 4-methylunberiferil
which is produced by the hydrolysis of a 4-methylunberiferil
25 derivative (Sigma Co.) as a substrate using fluorescence
spectrophotometer at an excitation wavelength of 365 nm and a
fluorescence wavelength 450 nm.

The method of detection of a substance which may inhibit or activate the granule secretion reaction according to the present invention can be carried out in this manner. Therefore, a substance which inhibits or activates the granule secretion reaction contained in the above-mentioned sample can be quantitatively determined.

A preferable example of the quantitative determination of the present invention is as follows.

The target substance (sample) which is an object of screening is caused to be present at an appropriate concentration in a suspension of neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells having permeabilized cell membranes, and a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound are added to make an appropriate concentration, respectively, to measure the amount of secreted granules. For example, 5×10^6 cells/ml to 5×10^7 cells/ml of human neutrophils which are treated with digitonin to make the membrane permeabilized membranes is prepared. A sample is added to a concentration of 1-100 μM , followed by the addition of calgranulin A (0.01-10 μM , preferably 0.1-3 μM) and an aqueous solution of calcium chloride compound (0.01-10 μM , preferably 0.1-3 μM). The mixture is incubated at 25-40°C, preferably 30-70°C, for 1-60 minutes, and preferably for 5-15 minutes. As examples of the medium used in this incubation buffer solution (pH: about 7-7.4) containing, 100 mM - 200 mM potassium chloride, 10 mM - 20 mM sodium chloride, and 0.3 mM - 3 mM EGTA, for example, phosphoric acid, MOPS, HEPES, Tris, TAPA, BES, and TES buffer containing them can be given. The amount of the substance secreted

during the incubation is determined and compared with a control to which no sample is added.

According to the present invention a method of screening a calgranulin activity activator, which is used for increasing calgranulin activity of neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells and then increasing granule secretion, can be provided. Specifically, a substance (sample) which is an object of the screening is selected and caused to be present in a suspension of neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells having permeabilized cell membranes at an appropriate concentration (1-100 μM , for example). A water-soluble calcium compound at an appropriate concentration (for example, 0.01-10 μM , and preferably 0.1-3 μM) and a calgranulin, for example calgranulin A, at an appropriate concentration (for example, 0.01-10 μM , and preferably 0.1-3 μM) are added to the suspension, thereby screening the substance which increases the quantity of granules secretion even more.

A simple method of screening a calgranulin activity deactivator can be provided by the method of activating the activity of calgranulin permeable through cell membranes of neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells of the present invention. Specifically, a substance (sample) which is an object of screening is selected and caused to be present in a suspension of cultured neutrophils or neutrophil-like cells at an appropriate concentration (1-100 μM , for example). A calgranulin activity activator at an appropriate concentration (for example, 0.01-100 μM , and preferably 0.1-10 μM) is added

to the suspension, thereby screening the substance which inhibits granules secretion.

Granule secretion of neutrophils is known to injure intima of blood vessels as mentioned above. Injury of blood vessel intima is known to be deeply associated with diseases such as adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), injury by reperfusion after ischemia during acute myocardial infarction, glomerular nephritis, cystic fibrosis, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic bronchitis, cerebral vasospasm, asthma, peripheral circulation disorder, angina pectoris, hypertension, arteriosclerosis, and the like. Therefore, the above method of screening the neutrophil granule secretion inhibitor can be applied to the screening of a substance which inhibits the intimal injury of blood vessels.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows an elastase secretion reaction of human neutrophils having high permeability cell membranes by calgranulin A in Example 1.

Figure 2 shows an elastase secretion reaction of human neutrophils having high permeability cell membranes by calgranulin B in Example 1.

Figure 3 shows an elastase secretion reaction of human neutrophils having high permeability cell membranes by a mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B in Example 1.

Figure 4 shows a lactoferrin secretion reaction of human neutrophils having high permeability cell membranes by calgranulin A in Example 2.

Figure 5 shows a lactoferrin secretion reaction of human neutrophils having high permeability cell membranes by calgranulin B in Example 2.

Figure 6 shows a lactoferrin secretion reaction of human neutrophils having high permeability cell membranes by a mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B in Example 2.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The present invention will now be described more specifically by way of examples. However, the present invention is not limited to these following examples.

Example 1

<Method of controlling elastase secretion from human neutrophils according to an increase or decrease of calgranulin content>

Elastase is a typical secretion substance which is present in primary granules of neutrophils. Elastase is a proteinase which decomposes elastin, an elastic protein present in blood vessels, etc., and causes hindrance to occur. A method of controlling elastase secretion by calgranulin using human neutrophils will be described.

A neutrophil suspension was prepared from blood collected from human vein according to the method described in Biological Chemistry Experiment Lecture, second series, No. 8, Blood, Vol. 2, 679-685). The neutrophil suspension was adjusted to a concentration of 1×10^7 cells/ml in a plastic test tube using a permeabilized buffer (PB) (30 mM HEPES, 100 mM KCl, 20 mM NaCl, 1 mM EGTA, pH 7.0) and incubated at 37°C for 10 minutes.

Digitonin (Sigma company) was added to the neutrophil suspension to a final concentration of 5-7.5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ and the mixture was incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes. The neutrophil suspension was centrifuged at 1200 rpm for 5 minutes. After discarding supernatant, precipitated neutrophils were re-suspended in PB to prepare a permeabilized neutrophil suspension (cell concentration: $1 \times 10^7/\text{ml}$).

The permeabilized neutrophil suspension was added to a 96-well immunoplate, 200 μl per well, and incubated for at 37°C 15 minutes. Next, an aqueous solution of calcium chloride (final concentration: 1 μM) and calgranulin A, calgranulin B, or a equimolar mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B (each to a final concentration of 0 μM , 0.3 μM , 1 μM , or 3 μM) were added, and the resulting mixture was incubated at 37°C for 5 minutes.

The 96-well immunoplate was centrifuged at 1200 rpm for one minute at 4°C using a centrifugation container for immunoplates. The supernatant is transferred to another 96-well immunoplate, 160 μl per well, and incubated at 37°C for 5 minutes. 10 mM of an elastase substrate (Suc-Ala-Pro-Ala-pNA, Peptide Laboratory, Inc.) was added to the 96-well immunoplate. After gently shaking, the mixture was incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes. Then, absorbance at 405 nm was measured using a microplate reader.

The results are shown in Figure 1 (calgranulin A), Figure 2 (calgranulin B), and Figure 3 (a mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B). Calgranulin A increased elastase secretion from neutrophils if the amount of addition is increased to increase

the calgranulin activity (Figure 1). Assuming that the amount of elastase secretion in the absence of calgranulin A is 1, 3 μM of calgranulin A remarkably increased the amount of elastase secretion (about eight times).

5 Calgranulin B increased elastase secretion from neutrophils if the amount of addition is increased to increase the calgranulin activity (Figure 2). Assuming that the amount of elastase secretion in the absence of calgranulin B is 1, 3 μM of calgranulin B remarkably increased the amount of elastase secretion (about seven times). A mixture of calgranulin A and
10 calgranulin B increased elastase secretion from neutrophils if the amount of addition is increased to increase the calgranulin activity (Figure 3). Assuming that the amount of elastase secretion in the absence of the mixture is 1, 3 μM of the mixture
15 of calgranulin A and calgranulin B remarkably increased the amount of elastase secretion (about six times).

These results show that change in the amount of calgranulin A, calgranulin B, or a mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B in neutrophils can remarkably change the amount of elastase
20 secretion.

Example 2

<Method of controlling lactoferrin secretion from human neutrophils according to an increase or decrease of calgranulin content>

25 Lactoferrin is a typical secretion substance which is present in secondary granules of neutrophils. A method of controlling lactoferrin secretion by calgranulin using human

neutrophils will be described.

A neutrophil suspension was prepared from blood collected from human vein according to the method described in Biological Chemistry Experiment Lecture, second series, No. 8, Blood, Vol. 2, 679-685). The neutrophil suspension was adjusted to a concentration of 1×10^7 cells/ml using PB in a plastic test tube and incubated at 37°C for 10 minutes. Digitonin (Sigma company) was added to the neutrophil suspension to a final concentration of $5 \mu\text{g/ml}$ and the mixture was incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes.

The neutrophil suspension was centrifuged at 1200 rpm for 5 minutes. After supernatant was discarded, precipitated neutrophils were re-suspended in PB to prepare a permeabilized neutrophil suspension (cell concentration: 1×10^7 cells/ml). The permeabilized neutrophil suspension was added to a 96-well immunoplate, $200 \mu\text{l}$ per well, and incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes. Next, an aqueous solution of calcium chloride (final concentration: $1 \mu\text{M}$) and calgranulin A, calgranulin B, or a equimolar mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B (each to a final concentration of $0 \mu\text{M}$, $0.3 \mu\text{M}$, $1 \mu\text{M}$, or $3 \mu\text{M}$) were added, and the resulting mixtures were incubated at 37°C for 5 minutes. The 96-well immunoplate was centrifuged at 1200 rpm for one minute at 4°C . ELISA-kit (OXIS Co.) was used for the determination of lactoferrin. The results are shown in Figures 4, 5, and 6. Calgranulin A increased lactoferrin secretion from neutrophils if the amount of addition is increased to increase the calgranulin activity (Figure 4). Assuming that the amount of lactoferrin secretion in the absence of calgranulin A is 1,

3 μM of calgranulin A remarkably increased the amount of lactoferrin secretion (about six times). Calgranulin B increased lactoferrin secretion from neutrophils if the amount of addition is increased to increase the calgranulin activity (Figure 5).

5 Assuming that the amount of lactoferrin secretion in the absence of calgranulin B is 1, 3 μM of calgranulin B remarkably increased the amount of lactoferrin secretion (about five times). A mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B increased lactoferrin secretion from neutrophils if the amount of addition is increased to increase the calgranulin activity (Figure 6). Assuming that the amount of lactoferrin secretion in the absence of the mixture is 1, 3 μM of the mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B remarkably increased the amount of lactoferrin secretion (about five times).

10
15 These results show that change in the amount of calgranulin A, calgranulin B, or a mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B in neutrophils can remarkably change the amount of lactoferrin secretion.

20 The results of Examples 1 and 2 show that calgranulins are important proteins to control granule secretion from neutrophils.

Example 3

<Method of Screening a substance inhibiting or activating granule secretion by allowing a sample to stand in the system in which the amount of elastase secretion from neutrophils is greatly increased by changing calgranulin activity>

A neutrophil suspension was prepared from blood collected

from a human vein according to the method described in Biological Chemistry Experiment Lecture, second series, No. 8, Blood, Vol. 2, 679-685). The neutrophil suspension was adjusted to a concentration of 1×10^7 cells/ml using PB in a plastic test tube and incubated at 37°C for 10 minutes. Digitonin was added to the neutrophil suspension to a final concentration of 5 µg/ml and the mixture was incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes. The neutrophil suspension was centrifuged at 1200 rpm for 5 minutes.

After supernatant was discarded, the precipitate was re-suspended in PB to prepare a permeabilized neutrophil suspension (cell concentration: 1×10^7 cells/ml). The permeabilized neutrophil suspension was added to a 96-well immunoplate, 200 µl per well, and incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes. N-(4-methoxybenzyl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-piperazinylheptyl amine trihydrochloride (Compound 1), N-benzyl-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-piperazinylheptylamine trihydrochloride (Compound 2), 1,1-(di-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-ethyl-1-octaene (Compound 3), and 2-hydroxy-5-((-4-((-2-pyridinylamino)sulfonyl)phenyl)azo)benzoic acid (Compound 4) were used as samples for screening.

These samples were added to a final concentration of 30 µM and the mixtures were incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes. Next, an aqueous solution of calcium chloride (final concentration: 1 µM) and calgranulin A, calgranulin B, or a equimolar mixture of calgranulin A and calgranulin B (each to a final concentration of 0 µM, 0.3 µM, 1 µM, or 3 µM) were added, and the resulting mixtures were incubated at 37°C for 5 minutes. The 96-well

immunoplate was centrifuged at 1200 rpm for one minute at 4°C using a centrifugal separator for immunoplates. The supernatant is transferred to another 96-well immunoplate and incubated at 37°C for 5 minutes. 10 mM of an elastase substrate (Suc-Ala-Pro-Ala-pNA) was added to the 96-well immunoplate. After gently shaking, the mixture was incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes. Then, absorbance at 405 nm was measured using a microplate reader.

The results are shown in Table 1. The secretion inhibiting rate of samples was determined by comparison with a control which does not contain the screening sample, assuming that the secretion from the control is 100%. Compound 1 and Compound 2 increased the activity of calgranulin A and remarkably controlled granule secretion in a system in which the amount of elastase secretion from neutrophils has been remarkably increased. Compound 3 remarkably increased the amount of secretion in the above system.

[Table 1]

Name of sample	Amount of secretion (%)
Control	100
Compound 1	61
Compound 2	51
Compound 3	151
Compound 4	75

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present invention is a very useful method of controlling granule secretion from neutrophils. The detecting method, screening method, or quantitative determination method of substances inhibiting or activating granule secretion based on the above method is very useful in providing therapeutic drugs for various diseases due to intimal injury of blood vessels brought about by granules secretion of neutrophil.

CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling granule secretion comprising performing a treatment to increase or decrease an active form of calgranulin on a cell line having granules secretion capability, thereby increasing or decreasing granule secretion from the cell line.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell line having granule secretion capability is neutrophils or neutrophil-like cultured cells originating from a warm-blooded animal.

3. The method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the active form of calgranulin is one or more of the following peptides:

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto, and

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.

4. A method of detecting a substance which inhibits or

activates a granule secretion reaction comprising the following steps:

A) a step of increasing an active form of calgranulin in cell lines having granule secretion capability;

5 B) a step of causing a sample which may contain a substance inhibiting or activating the granule secretion reaction to contact with the cell lines having granule secretion capability before, after, or during the step A) , and incubating the mixture; and

10 C) a step of detecting the subject substance secreted from the cell line.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the step A) of increasing an active form of calgranulin in a cell line having the capability of secreting granules comprises successively
15 carrying out the following steps a) and b):

a) a step of changing the cell line having granule secretion capability into a permeabilized cell; and

b) a step of simultaneously or successively adding a calgranulin and a water-soluble calcium compound to the cell
20 line and incubating the cell line.

6. The method according to claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the cell line having granule secretion capability is neutrophils originating from a warm-blooded animal or neutrophil-like cultured cells.

25 7. The method according to any one of claims 4-6, wherein the active form of calgranulin is one or more of the following peptides:

(i) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-93 of Sequence ID No. 1 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto,

(ii) A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence 1-114 of Sequence ID No. 2 of the Sequence Table and binding calcium thereto, and

(iii) A peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids are deleted from or added to the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 of the Sequence Table, or one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence of Sequence ID No. 1 or 2 are replaced with other amino acids, binding calcium thereto, and exhibiting the activity of increasing secretion of granules of cell lines having granule secretion capability.

8. The method according to claim 5, wherein the water-soluble calcium compound is a solution or powder of a compound which produces calcium ions at a concentration of 100 mM or more when the compound contacts with water.

9. The method according to any one of claims 4-8, wherein the method of detection is a quantitative determination method.

10. The method according to any one of claims 4-8, wherein the method of detection is a screening method.

11. A method of obtaining a substance for controlling intimal injury of blood vessels comprising acquiring the substance for controlling intimal injury of blood vessels by screening a substance inhibiting granule secretion reaction by the method of claim 10.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of controlling granule secretion comprising performing a treatment to increase or decrease an active form of calgranulin on a cell line having capability of secreting granules, thereby increasing or decreasing granule secretion from the cell line.

A method of detecting a substance which inhibits or activates the granule secretion reaction by applying this controlling method. An active form of calgranulin is increased by making the cells permeabilized cells and adding a calgranulin and soluble calcium. Decrease of an active form of calgranulin is carried out by introducing a calgranulin antibody into cells.

The method is useful for screening a substance which inhibits or activates granule secretion.

1/3

Fig. 1

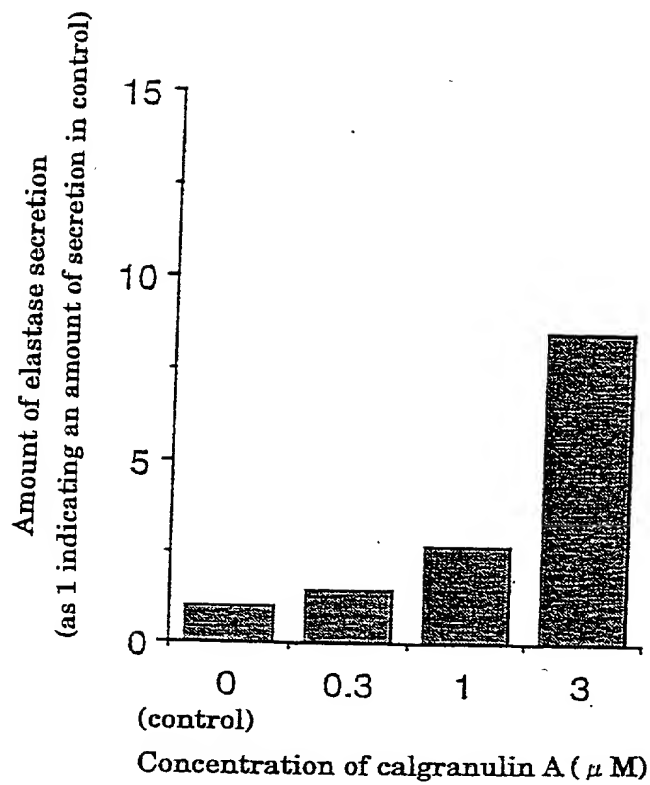
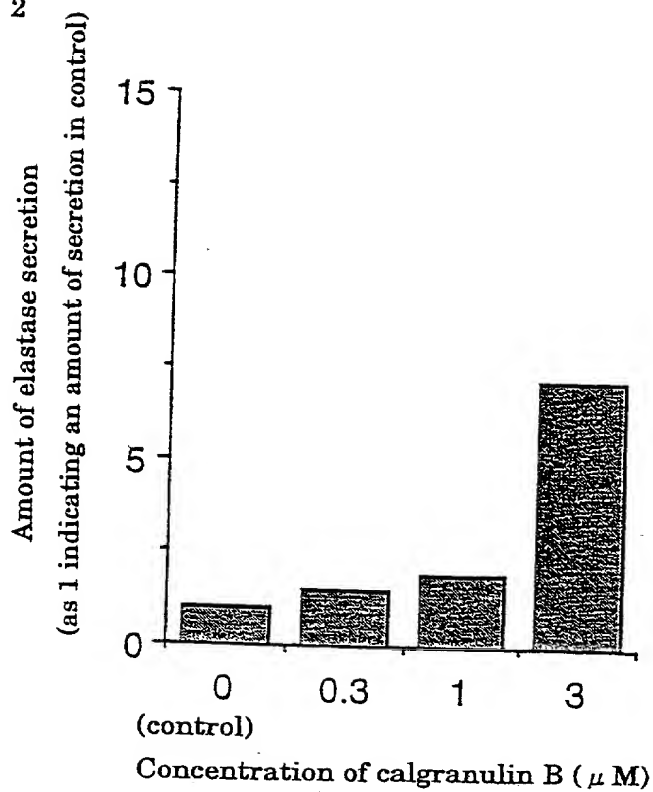


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

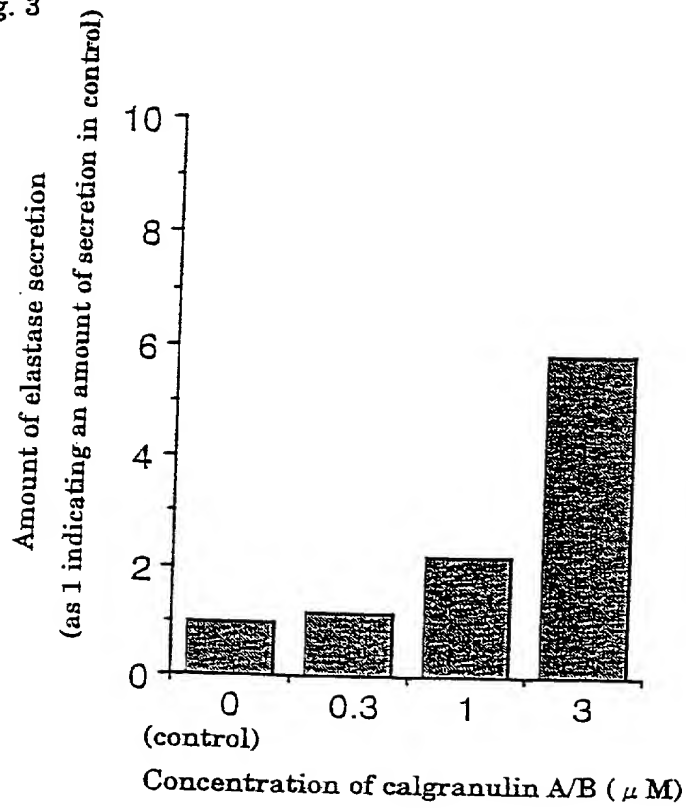


Fig. 4

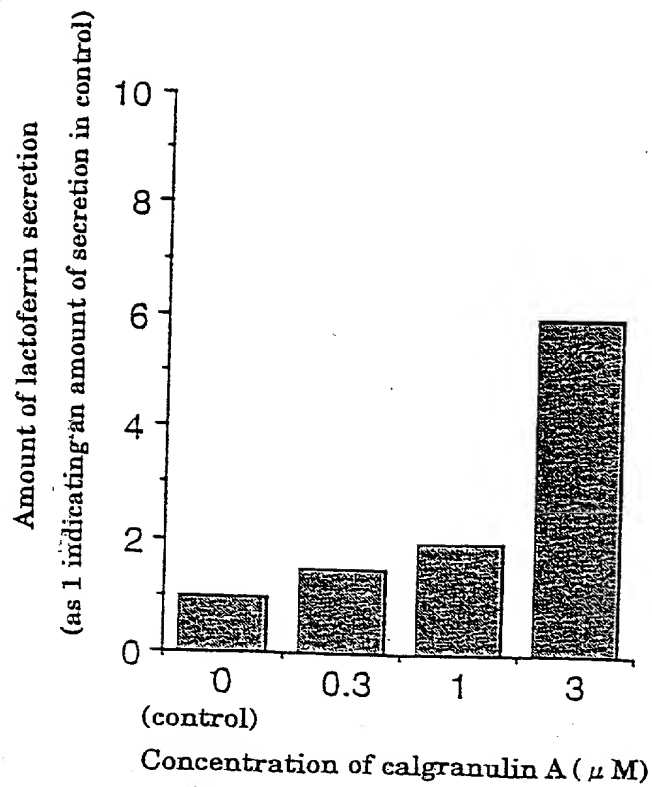


Fig. 5

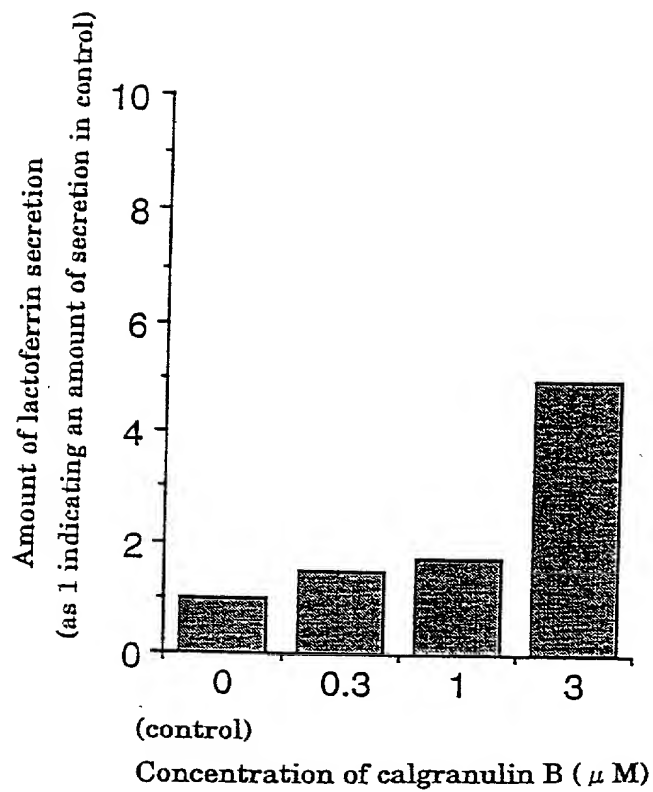
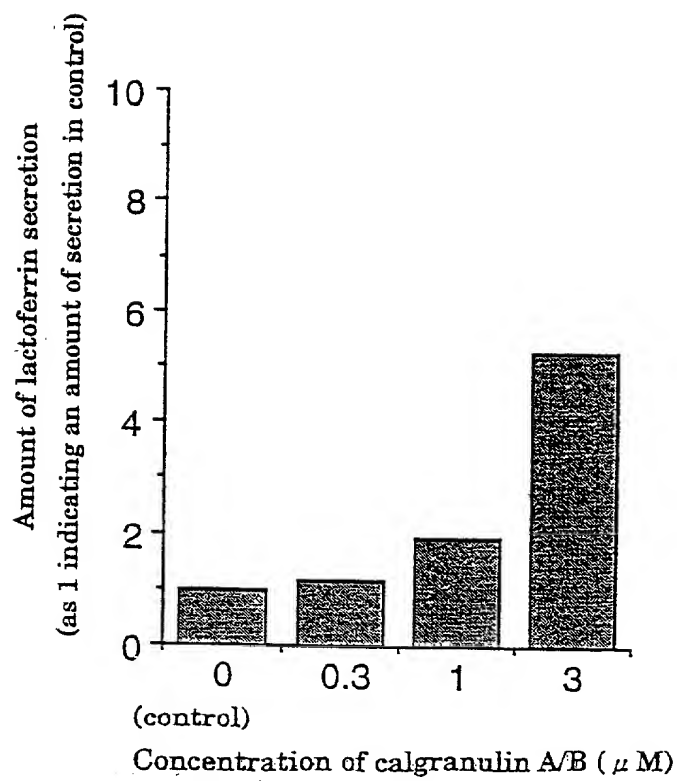


Fig. 6



COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

METHOD OF CONTROLLING SECRETION OF GRANULES

the specification of which: *(check one)*

REGULAR OR DESIGN APPLICATION

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as application Serial No. _____ and was amended on (if applicable).

PCT FILED APPLICATION ENTERING NATIONAL STAGE

☒ was described and claimed in international application PCT/J99/05302 filed on 28 September 1999 and as amended on (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Priority Claimed
Japan	274574/1998	29 September 1998	yes

(Complete this part only if this is a continuing application.)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status—patented, pending, abandoned)

2001年 3月27日 11時39分

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NO. 8215 P. 3/4

01年 3月22日 17:48

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The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from Fujino Patent Attorney as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney or agent named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the registered patent attorneys represented by Customer No. 000466 to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, including: Robert J. PATCH, Reg. No. 17,353, Andrew J. PATCH, Reg. No. 32,925, Robert F. HARGEST, Reg. No. 25,590, Bennett CASTEL, Reg. No. 35,841, Eric JENSEN, Reg. No. 57,855, Thomas W. PERKINS, Reg. No. 33,027, and Roland E. LONG, Jr., Reg. No. 41,849,

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Fig. 1

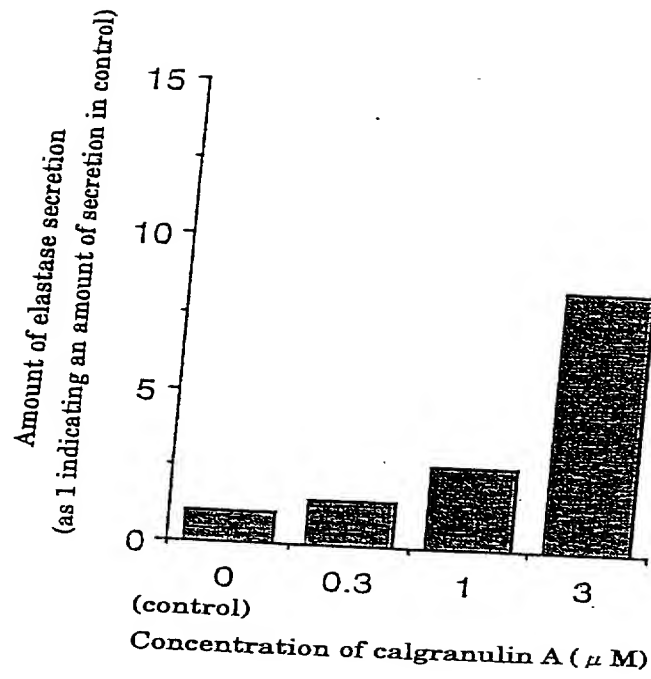


Fig. 2

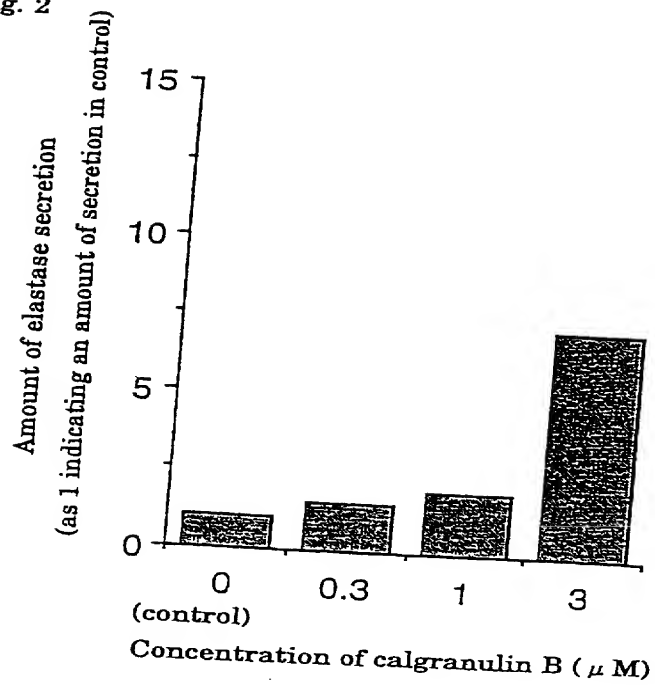


Fig. 3

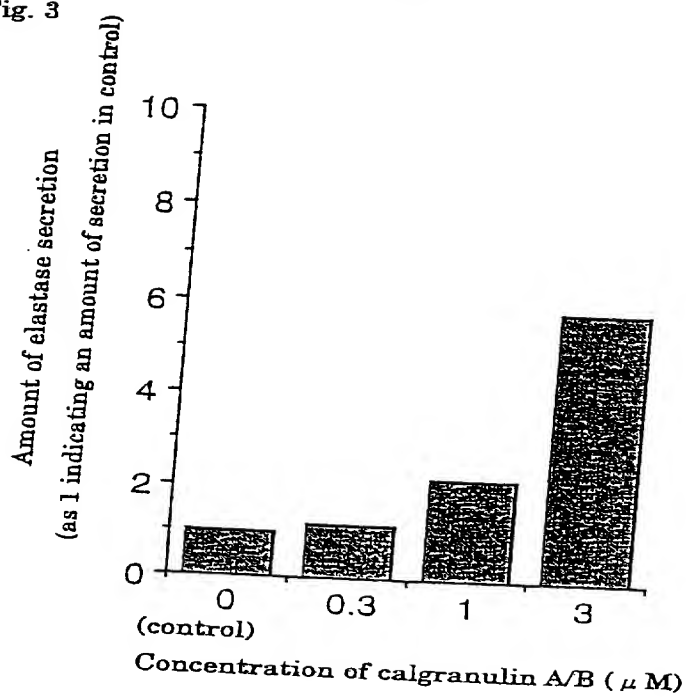


Fig. 4

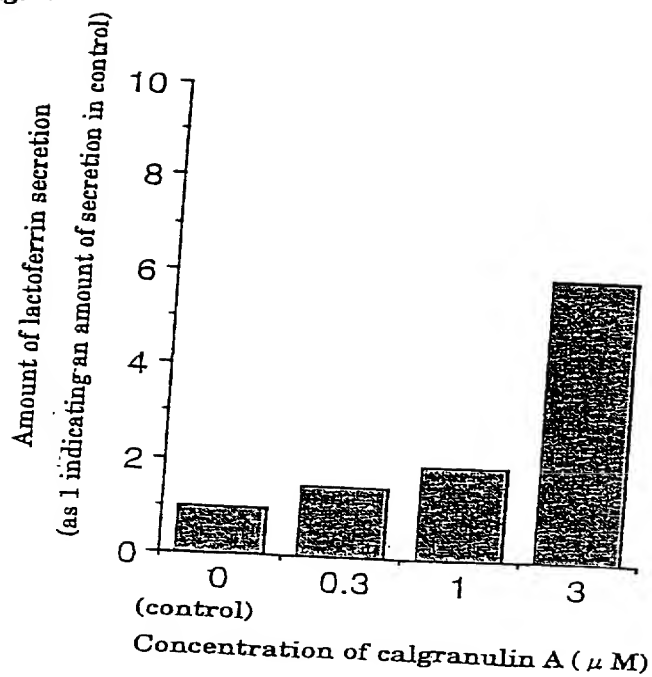


Fig. 5

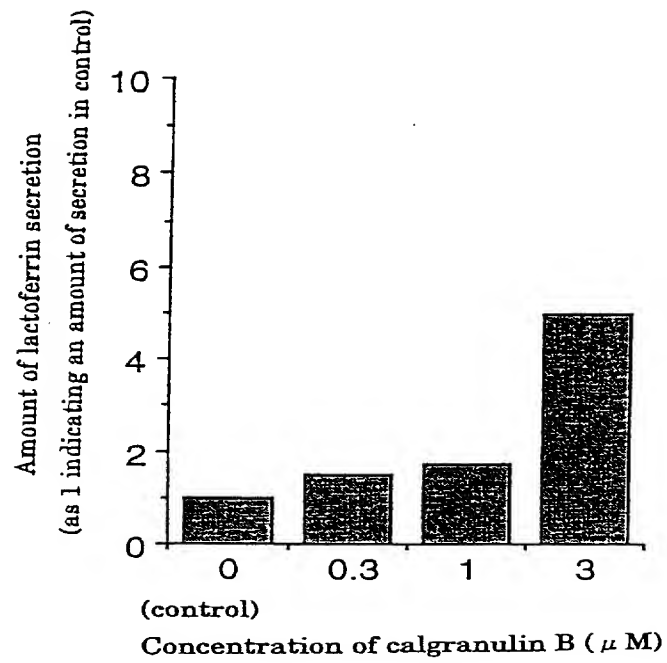


Fig. 6

